

**Chancellor Weekly Brief | 12.4.2020****Dr. James Malm****FALL HOME STRETCH.**

Welcome to this week's brief, where we are moving the format around a bit to deliver a recap of UNM-Gallup activity and providing you with an overview of things to come via video that we will post each week on our Website, social media channels, and deliver through your UNM email. The intent, of course, is to keep you updated as a member of our campus community so that you have the information you need to succeed at UNM-Gallup.

As we returned this week from our Thanksgiving Break, we begin the final home stretch of this hybrid fall semester. While we've concluded the governor's two-week shelter-in-place order, we are now operating within a new "Red to Green" tier system that provides each county with some flexibility as we continue to fight this pandemic. McKinley County remains in the strictest Red category, so that means we must continue to adhere to social distancing, wearing a face mask in public, and not congregating in groups.

This pandemic has not been easy, and I am so proud of all of you for your continued hard work and study as we persevere through these trying times. Next week is our finals week, which begins on December 7th and concludes on December 12th. I wish all of our students the best as they complete this semester as strongly as possible.

**VIRTUAL HOLIDAY MAGIC CELEBRATION**

Like most celebrations scheduled in 2020, our annual Holiday Magic celebration is going virtual this month. We'll hold a series of celebrations and contests on our Website and Facebook page to celebrate Christmas, Hanukkah, and Kwanzaa, and I invite you to get creative and send us your holiday photos and videos to compete in the categories of Best Holiday Decorations, Best Home Office Decorations, and Best Video Holiday Greeting. For each upcoming holiday, we will give out First, Second, and Third Place prizes from the UNM-Gallup bookstore. Submit your best holiday and photos and videos at [gallup.unm.edu/virtual-holiday-celebration](https://gallup.unm.edu/virtual-holiday-celebration).

**VIRTUAL GRADUATION CELEBRATIONS**

We cannot be any prouder of the Class of 2020, which might be one of the most resilient graduating classes in our history. I join with our entire community in providing our early congratulations on your achievements and would like to let our fall graduates know that we will celebrate you in the coming weeks to the best of our ability.

At this time—due to our state's public health orders—we will not hold an in-person ceremony for our spring or fall graduates as planned. Instead, we will honor your achievements virtually on our UNM-Gallup Website and social media channels. We are also scheduling a professional photographer to provide our graduates with an



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opportunity to get their graduation photos on campus, along with other celebrations planned throughout this month. We will communicate with you directly as we celebrate our UNM-Gallup class of 2020!

### REGISTRATION

UNM-Gallup has implemented a rigorous digital, print, and radio advertising campaign to encourage current and prospective students to apply and register for our spring semester. We are currently down 56 percent in student credit hours this week compared to the same time last year. Of course, we are seeing these numbers in the midst of a pandemic, but we are hopeful that students will start or continue their studies at UNM-Gallup. There's no better time to prepare for what's ahead.

If you are a prospective student, please join us this spring. You can get started directly from our homepage at [gallup.unm.edu](http://gallup.unm.edu). If you are a current student, we want you back! Please register for spring classes at your earliest convenience at [gallup.unm.edu/advising](http://gallup.unm.edu/advising), where you can also speak with an advisor online.

And, if you are a member of our faculty or staff, please reach out, connect, and engage with individual prospects and returning students to welcome them back to our classrooms, studios, workshops, and laboratories for Spring 2021. While we are anticipating a hybrid start to spring, we continue to hope for the eventual safe return to campus soon.

Keep up the good work for the well-being of our campus and students. Finish this semester strong. And continue to stay close to your email as we navigate through the coming months together.

Stay safe and stay well.

Best Regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'J. Malm'.

Dr. James R. Malm, Chancellor  
Professor of Business